



Seeing Hands Nepal

to Nasim ▾

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Hi Nasim, sorry it took me a while to reply.

Your goal sounds most worthy but I'm afraid I can't offer much by way of suggestions on exactly what to do - if I had a brilliant idea I'd have encouraged someone in the community to do it by now.

As far as I'm aware, current vocational training for the blind in Nepal currently covers music, candle & incense making, some other basic handicrafts and some animal husbandry. In the city, there are also dark restaurant initiatives and non-profit cyber cafes that provide free computer training. It would be great to see the cyber cafes expanded into more rural areas but that would come with lots of logistical (tech) challenges due to the availability of the net, and electricity! Cheese making is something that works successfully in Tibet and I don't believe has been tried, but then they do eat more cheese there. We did look into the concept of expanding our massage project to the local community at one stage but its unviable since culturally the locals don't tend to associate massage with healing (it has negative connotations) and they wouldn't pay enough to sustain the enterprise, even if perceptions could be changed.

Your greatest challenges will lie firstly in understanding exactly what the need is and the best way you can help, and secondly in getting whatever support you decide to give to the rural areas themselves... That's without even mentioning the inherent difficulties with running a project in Nepal..where do I start!?

Can't really advise more without knowing more about what you are planning, you could try talking to the NAB (national blind association) but communication isn't their strong point so you might have to chase them up. As far as help for us goes, we're in the process of localizing our project now (it is sustainable) and reducing dependencies on external support but the offer is very much appreciated.

Best regards and good luck with your project!

Sue Ainley